



January 2004

Hard Work And Vision Make Dream A Reality

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Eastern Region

State of Utah

Department of Workforce Services



Eastern Region
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In 1992, Ray Palmer left California and returned to Blanding, Utah. Ray was born and raised in Blanding and had hoped that he could return to San Juan County so his family and grandchildren could enjoy the same quality of life that he had known in his youth. He used his business experience, ingenuity, and a lot of hard work to develop many of Blanding's finest businesses. The Palmer family built two beautiful motels: the **Comfort Inn** and the **Super 8**.

People who stay in these two motels are treated to an outdoor museum of antique machinery. It is not unusual to see hotel guests admiring this collection of old tractors, buggies, farm and mining implements that has come from all over the state. Sandwiched between the two motels is a very nice restaurant called the **Old Tymer**. The restaurant also doubles as a museum honoring local residents and an almost forgotten way of life. The pictures and antiques bring back many memories of life in the early days of Blanding. Almost anyone in town can find a picture of a relative involved in cowboying, mining, cutting timber or running the Colorado or San Juan Rivers.

Ray and his family also own and operate the **Prospector Motel**, **Gofer foods** (convenience store), **Taco Bell**, and the **Camp Park**. Today the Palmers are the largest private employer in Blanding. They have almost 100 employees during the height of the tourist season.

Managing and running all these businesses is a family affair. This has allowed many of Ray's family to return to Blanding and



Ray Palmer (right) and his son David Palmer (left) are pictured standing in front of their restaurant, The Old Tymer in Blanding.

raise their families in a rural setting. The Department of Workforce Service partners with their business to provide hiring services, on the job training and customer service training. Ray and his son David always take advantage of DWS-sponsored seminars.

The events of 9-11 and military conflicts have negatively impacted foreign tourism, the bread and butter of their business. But they are optimistic that the toughest times are behind them and hope for a return to more robust times. For people visiting the four corners area, stop and visit the Palmers in one of their fine motels and enjoy a wonderful eating experience in their restaurant. Don't forget to take a trip into the past and examine the wonderful collection of old machinery.



News You Can Use

Internships: A Win-Win Opportunity

What is an Internship?

An internship is a unique way for employers to help an individual obtain necessary job skills with no obligation and no training costs. You'll have the opportunity to train the employee and the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) will pay the intern a stipend and cover their worker's compensation costs. You will be under no obligation to offer continued employment when the training period is complete. Paperwork is minimal. A DWS representative will complete the contract and meet with you to answer any questions you may have. The intern will gain valuable skills and training that will make them better able to find and retain employment. This benefits the individual, the employer and the community.

What are my responsibilities?

You will be responsible for helping the intern upgrade their skills according to the training plan developed. You will also help the intern track hours worked. DWS will take care of the rest.

How long is an Internship?

The training time varies depending upon the individual's situation. A training plan will be developed based on the needs of the employer and the trainee.

What Kind of Intern May I Expect?

Types of applicants that are eligible include dislocated workers (those laid off from a previous position), economically disadvantaged workers who need to upgrade their skills, and workers entering the workforce for the first time. Internship offers these job seekers an opportunity to improve or upgrade their skills in a workplace setting. *Note: An intern must not displace a current employee.*

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DWS Awarded \$10,000 To Share Its Vision of Workforce Development

Utah, through the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), has been selected by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) as a Mentor State on "Supply Side: Employer Services." The department was selected to participate in the National Business Learning Partnership, a national partnership designed to match local areas that have transitioned to a demand-driven workforce system to other states that are struggling with the concept.

DWS is recognized nationally as a leader in providing an exceptional array of services to employers. "As a workforce agency which has made sustained and significant progress in the transition, the Department of Workforce Services will serve as a mentor and provide learning and insights regarding the transition," said Joseph Juarez, Regional Administrator, Region IV, USDOL.

The Department of Labor, in its selection document, had this to say about DWS: "The greatest strength of DWS has been their responsiveness to businesses' needs. This has been a big shift in the way things were done in the past and the businesses appreciate and value it." They also stated that, "the quality of referrals has improved dramatically which has been a tremendous help." Finally, "the businesses also appreciate the fact that the DWS business service staff never seem to use the word 'no' anymore. They always find a way to either say yes or link them with somebody that can say yes."

Utah was selected to mentor Nevada and Washington D.C. as protégé states. USDOL announced that it will award Utah \$10,000 in appreciation of its willingness to participate. "I am very pleased at what we have been able to accomplish as a department, and at the opportunities this will provide our department and our business services' staff to learn from and build partnerships with our colleagues in these other states to better serve Utah employers," said DWS Deputy Director Darin Brush. "We've worked very hard to accomplish our mission as Utah's Job Connection, and we are excited to share our vision with our colleagues in Nevada and the District of Columbia."

DWS Connects Business with Solutions

Employers, check your mailbox this month for an important letter from Governor Olene S. Walker referring you to our web page at jobs.utah.gov/solutions. We're offering an exciting array of services to make your job easier while improving your bottom line.

Our business consultants can connect you with a limitless number of solutions that enhance

your workforce and grow your business.

You will receive additional information about this program over the next few months. In the meantime, visit the Department of Workforce Services' web page at jobs.utah.gov/solutions. If you prefer to speak with a business consultant, please call toll free at 1-888-920-WORK.

New Data Available at Economic Information Web Site

Labor Market Information and Size of Firm Annual Reports available for download

Two publications have recently been updated on the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Economic Information Web site: the *Annual Report of Labor Market Information*, and *Utah Employers, Employment and Wages by Size of Firm*. Both are annual publications, and both are now internet-only publications.

The *Annual Report of Labor Market Information* references the year 2002 and contains detailed employment and wage information for that year, organized by county and NAICS sector. The data are arranged in a way that allows metro/non-metro wage comparisons by industry sector. It has some historical data going back to 2000 to show fluctuations in employment, since the downturn of the economy. For instance, usually in an economic downturn the metro counties are hardest hit. Yet the data in the Annual Report shows how the opposite has happened this time, due to the bubble bursting in the high tech area.

The narrative section analyzes the economy by industry. You can also find lists of the state's largest employers, statistics on the civilian labor force and unemployment rates. There is even city-level employment and wage data for cities in Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Cache, and Utah counties.

Four-digit NAICS industry data is available enabling a more detailed view of the health of each industry, as reflected in wages, employment, etc., for customers who want the most detailed industry data available.

The other annual publication which has just been released is *Utah Employers, Employment and*

Wages by Size of Firm. "Size of Firm", as we call it, contains employment and wage data for all entities in Utah that pay into the Unemployment Insurance fund. This information is organized by the size of firm, which can be very revealing. How big a firm is can significantly influence other factors such as wages and wage comparisons within industries.

This publication also reveals how important small companies are in Utah's economy. In fact, 95 percent of establishments in Utah have 50 or fewer employees!

Note: "Firms" represent the parent company and single entities, while "Establishments" are individual work-sites. So a firm may have many establishments or only one.

HOW TO ACCESS THE REPORTS

Go to the DWS home page: jobs.utah.gov

- Click on [Economic Information](#) in the Quick Links on the right side of the screen.
- Click on [Publications](#) in the navigation list on the left of the screen.
- In the "Select" window, click on the title of the publication, then click on [GO](#)!

All or part of both of these publications can be printed from your Web browser. In addition, the tables are provided in Microsoft Excel format for easy downloading.

Utah Department of Workforce Services

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*Return Service Requested*Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage**PAID**Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #4621**January 2004****Contact Numbers*****Unemployment Rates Mixed in Southeast Counties, Lower in Uintah Basin and Utah*****UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: October 2003**

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate registered 4.8 percent, a movement downward from the revised 5.0 percent measurement of September. Approximately 58,000 Utahns were unemployed in October. A year ago there were 72,200 Utahns unemployed, with the unemployment rate at 6.1 percent.

County	Oct 2002	Oct 2003
Daggett	4.3%	4.1%
Duchesne	8.5%	6.8%
Uintah	6.6%	5.1%
Carbon	7.1%	6.4%
Emery	8.9%	9.4%
Grand	7.2%	6.8%
San Juan	8.8%	9.0%
Utah	6.1%	4.8%
United States	5.7%	6.0%

U.S. Employment

Nationally, the unemployment rate, 6.0 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 8.8 million, were essentially unchanged when compared with last month. Unemployment rates for the major worker groups—adult men (6.5%), adult women (5.2%), teenagers (17.1%), whites (5.1%), blacks (11.5%), Asians (6.1%), and Hispanics (7.2%)—also were little changed from September.

Blanding	(435) 678-1400
Emery County	(435) 381-6100
Moab	(435) 719-2600
Monticello	(435) 587-2016
Price	(435) 636-2300
Roosevelt	(435) 722-6500
Vernal	(435) 781-4100

Eastern Region Employment

In the Uintah Basin region, unemployment dropped as all three counties experienced decreases in unemployment when compared to 12 months ago. For the southeast counties, the results were mixed: Carbon and Grand Counties had lower unemployment rates than a year before, while in Emery and San Juan Counties, the unemployment rate increased.

jobs.utah.gov**Utah's Job Connection**